

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

RANGE PLANTING

(Acre)
CODE 550

SPECIFICATIONS APPLICABLE TO RANGE PLANTING 550:

Application of Range Planting 550, shall adhere to the Wyoming NRCS Conservation Practice Standard in the Field Office Technical Guide.

- A treatment plan shall include the following information:
 1. Location - Field Numbers, and Map or Sketch of areas planted and areas excluded.
 2. Acres and how determined.
 3. Date practice applied.
 4. Seedbed preparation used.
 5. Seeding method and depth of seeding.
 6. Dominant ecological site(s) in the planting area.
 7. Erosion predictions if primary purpose was erosion control.
 8. Mixture and seeding rate (PLS).
 9. Protection provided during establishment period.
 10. Other useful comments.
 11. Date and signature.

Job Sheet WY-ECS-25 is applicable to this practice

- I. **SEEDBED PREPARATION:** A suitable seedbed will be prepared using one of the following methods:
 - A. Conventional method: A seedbed will be prepared that is free, or very nearly free, of all competing vegetation and is not subject to erosion. A firm seedbed will be provided in all cases. A seedbed is firm enough when the bootheel imprint of an average person leaves a maximum impression in the soil of one-half inch.
 - B. Prepared cover: (1) Follow the "Cover Crop" portion of the Conservation Practice Standard for "Cover and Green Manure Crop" (340), Section IV, Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). In addition, crops shall be mowed or harvested as needed to prevent them from producing seed. (2) If cover is needed to provide erosion control and a preparatory crop cannot be established, follow the Conservation Practice Standard for "Mulching" (484), Section IV, FOTG.
 - C. Mulch-till fallow - If free from weeds and volunteer grain, the seeding can be made directly into the stubble. Refer to the "Residue Management" (329 A, B, or C) Conservation Practice Standard in Section IV, FOTG. Herbicides may be applied to control weeds and/or volunteer grain. Refer to "Pest Management" (595) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG
- II. **FERTILIZER:** Fertilizer shall not be applied unless the landuser's experience and soil test results support it. If so, follow the "Nutrient Management" (590) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.



III. ADAPTED SPECIES - The selection of species will meet the following requirements:

- A. On rangeland, refer to ecological site descriptions for adapted species.
- B. Seed will meet all state seed laws. **All** seed shall have germination/purity test completed by a certified tester no more than twelve (12) months prior to planting.
- C. When planting grasses, only certified seed will be used if cultivars are listed for the species on Plant Materials Technical Note #3.

IV. SEEDING RATES & MIXTURES:

- A. Seeding rates are given in Plant Materials Technical Note #3.
- B. Seeding depth for loam, silty clay loam and silty clay soils is one-quarter to one-half inch. Seeding depths for sands, loamy sands, and sandy loams is one-half to one inch.
- C. All seeding rates are for pure plantings of the individual species. When seeding mixtures, use a percentage of the seeding rate of each species equal to the percentage of that species in the mixture.
- D. Seeding rates shall be 100% plus or minus 10% of that specified in Plant Materials Technical Note #3.

V. TIME OF PLANTING:

- A. Predominantly Cool Season Species: After soil temperature is low enough to prevent germination in the fall up to but no later than April 15, as long as soil conditions allow the preparation of a suitable seedbed.
- B. Predominantly Warm Season Species: Seedings will be made in early spring up to but no later than May 15.

VI. SEED TREATMENT: Treat seed with fungicide if past history of the field indicates disease to be a problem. Refer to "Pest Management" (595), Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG. ***SOME FUNGICIDES ARE TOXIC - READ THE LABEL!***

VII. COMPANION CROP: Companion crops will not be used.

VIII. SEEDING METHODS:

- A. All full seedings shall be made with a drill preferably a grass seeder equipped with double disc furrow openers with depth bands and packer wheels.
- B. Interseeding is applicable where loamy fine sand to fine sand textured soils make normal seedbed preparation hazardous, or if desirable, well-established grasses are in a thin stand but too abundant to destroy. The interseeder shall make a furrow at least 12 inches wide, 2 to 3 inches deep, and shall be spaced not more than 42 inches apart. The interseeder shall be equipped to plant fluffy and free-flowing seeds. The interseeder will be equipped with double disc furrow openers, depth bands, and packer wheels or drag chains.

IX. MANAGEMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS:

- A. Do not graze until the stand is beyond the seedling stage and has become established. Minimum protection from grazing will be from the time of seeding for one full year and one growing season. Refer to the "Prescribed Grazing" (528) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.
- B. Clip weeds or apply herbicides, if necessary, to control competing or undesirable vegetation. Refer to "Pest Management" (595) Conservation Practice Standard, Section IV, FOTG.
- C. When feasible, seeded areas should be grazed separately from adjacent native range.